

Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park—Phase II

June 7, 2012

BACKGROUND

City council recently approved \$9 million in two-thirds general obligation bonds of which \$7.5 million is to be used for parks and recreational facilities and \$1.5 million for land acquisition. One of these council approved two-thirds bond projects is the second-phase development of the Annie Louise Wilkerson, M.D. Nature Preserve Park in north Raleigh. Other two-thirds bond projects that are also being considered include:

- A new tennis complex next to Barwell Road Community Center in southeast Raleigh. The complex would consist of 18 regular courts, eight smaller "quick start" courts and a clubhouse;
- Upgrades to the City's Dix soccer fields off of Western Boulevard and to the WRAL Soccer Center on Perry Creek Road; and,
- An urban agricultural center just south of Downtown off of Garner Road. The center would offer crop sales, research, education, community outreach and job training programs

HISTORY

In February 2006, the City of Raleigh received an amazing gift of 157 acres of land along Falls Lake to create its first designated nature preserve. Dr. Annie Louise Wilkerson, a renowned Raleigh doctor with many pioneering achievements in her 53-year career in medicine, stipulated in her will that the park be maintained as a "nature preserve park" used for the primary purpose of nature and wildlife education.

In 2009, the park master plan was adopted by city council and the first phase of the park development is now complete. It consists of a park preserve office, an educational shelter, and restrooms. The restrooms utilize an innovative water conservation and re-use system. Other sustainable features include a solar array, car charging station, and permeable parking area.

PHASE II DEVELOPMENT SCOPE

The former home of Dr. Wilkerson will be fully renovated for conversion into a hands-on, interactive nature park research center. The center will be designed for LEED Silver Certification and may include a multi-purpose room, a science/wet lab, an exhibit space, a reception area / entry, a kitchenette, and the necessary support spaces. In addition to the center, the project will also include pedestrian walkways and outdoor teaching space.

DESIGN TEAM

HH Architecture, *Architect and Project Lead*

PROCESS & TIMELINE

- Project Information Exchange (North CAC Meeting): June 7, 2012
- 30% Design Review: Fall 2012
- Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board Fall 2012
- Council Approval Summer 2013
- Construction Completion Spring 2014

At the 30% design review meeting and the Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board meeting there will be opportunities to provide your input and feedback on the project.

ABOUT THE PARK

By preserving the existing natural communities and native species, the purpose of the park is to help visitors connect with nature through programs, hikes, and self study.

Hours:

Sunday - noon to dusk; Monday - closed;
Tuesday through Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to dusk

Location: 5229 Awns Haven Road - Raleigh, NC

Phone: 919-996-6764

CONTACTS

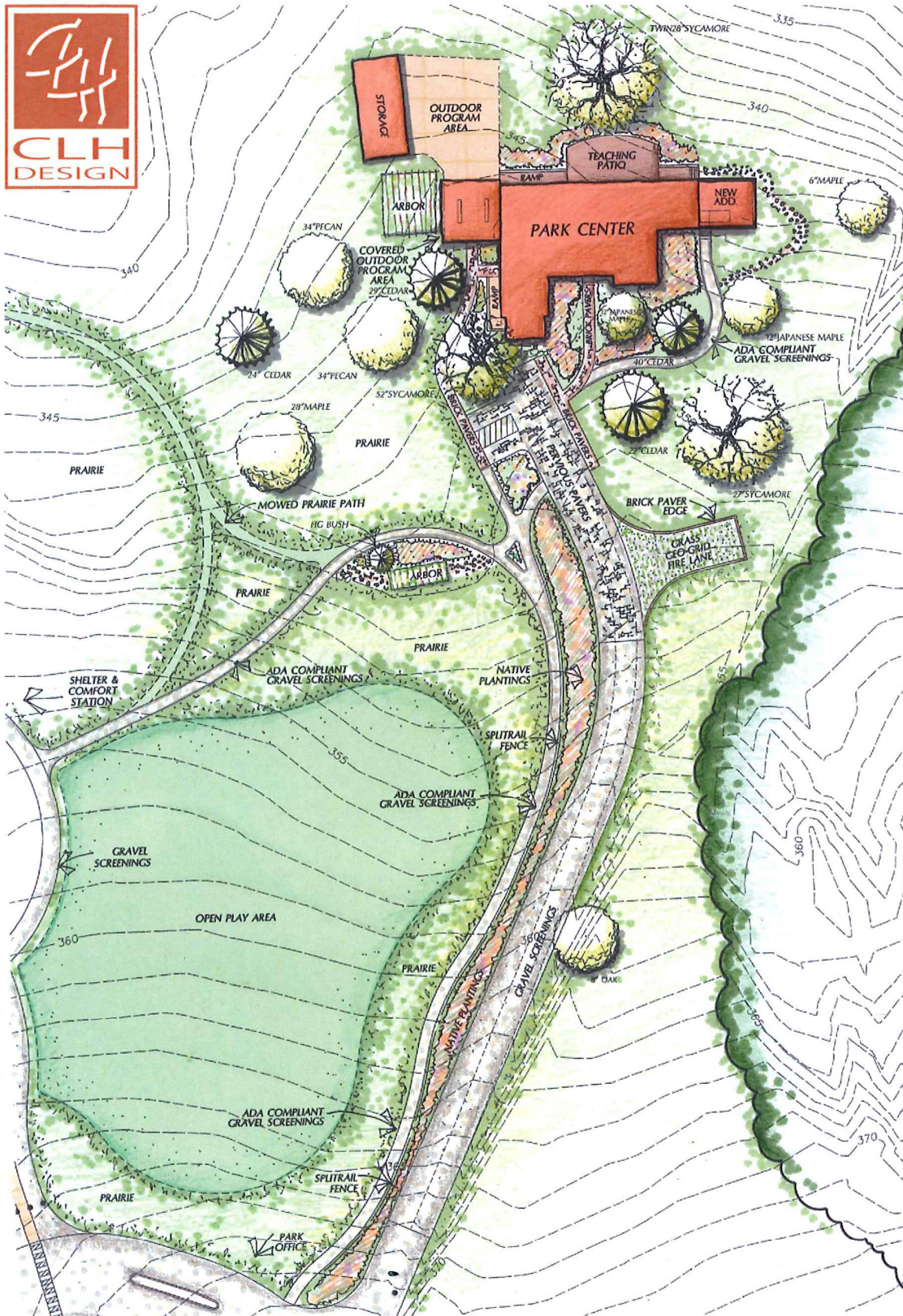
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Visit www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan
to view the status of all greenway and park projects

